

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 271330Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 540

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAID US UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: MOSCOW 7186 (NOTAL)

1. INTERESTING FOLLOW-UP TO BRIEF MAY 23 PRESS REPORT
(REFTEL) ON SOVIET SHIPPING TO VIETNAM APPEARS IN MAY 26 ISSUE
OF PRAVDA. A TWO-COLUMN ARTICLE FROM "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
IN SAIGON" REPORTS PRESENCE OF SOVIET TANKERS AND DRY CARGO
SHIPS AS "FIRST FOREIGN SHIPS IN LIBERATED SAIGON," HAVING
COME THERE "WITH CARGOES OF AID AND A MISSION OF FRIENDSHIP."

2. ARTICLE DESCRIBES SHIPS' ARRIVAL, MOVING QUIETLY UP RIVER
PAST PEACEFUL VILLAGES WHERE PEOPLE ARE WORKING AND PAST
HALF-SUNK NAVAL VESSELS OF "PUPPET GOVERNMENT" INTO PORT.
DRY CARGO SHIP TOLYA SHUMOV MENTIONED AS HAVING BEEN FIRST
SOVIET SHIP TO ARRIVE IN HARBOR, FOLLOWED BY TANKER
KOMSOMOLETS PRIMOR'YA, IN ADDITION TO OTHERS REPORTED IN TRUD
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ARTICLE MAY 23. CITY SAID TO BE WORKING NORMALLY, ALL SHOPS,

THEATERS AND ENTERPRISES OPEN AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WARMLY GRATEFUL FOR CARGOES OF SOVIET AID WHICH IS ARRIVING "VIA THIS "OCEAN BRIDGE" AND IS NECESSARY FOR THE NORMAL LIFE OF NEWLY LIBERATED COUNTRY. IN CONCLUSION PRAVDA READERS ARE INFORMED THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE PIONEERS VISITING TOLYA SHUMOVA GREETED CREW WITH FLOWERS.

3. ARTICLE INDICATES THAT AS SOON AS CARGOES ARE UNLOADED SHIPS ARE RETURNING TO VLADIVOSTOK, PRESUMABLY TO MOVE FURTHER CARGOES FOR SAIGON. THIS, PLUS USE OF TERM "OCEAN BRIDGE" SEEMS TO IMPLY PLANNED LARGE VOLUME OF AID SHIPMENTS FOR NEAR FUTURE AT LEAST.
STOESSEL

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